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PRESS RELEASE

**AMBASSADOR MORIARTY VISITS KUMUDINI COMPLEX
IN MIRZAPUR**

DHAKA, SEPTEMBER 14 -- U.S. Ambassador James F. Moriarty visited the Kumudini complex in Mirzapur. The Ambassador toured the Kumudini Hospital and Kumudini Nursing School and College. Ambassador Moriarty was highly impressed with the quality of service provided at the hospital. He also praised Kumudini's leadership in providing opportunities to girls in education, training and employment through the Bharastewari Homes School, Kumudini Nursing School and College, the Women's Medical College and the hospital.

During his visit, Ambassador Moriarty inaugurated a USAID-supported medical ward in the hospital. The ward provides treatment and rehabilitation to women with a pregnancy-related complication called obstetric fistula (an injury related to child birth). The United States Government supports services to repair fistula, while simultaneously working with communities to spread information and awareness about fistula prevention and treatment. This funding has provided care to more than 300 women since the inception of this project in 2005. Ambassador Moriarty emphasized that the U.S. Government, in partnership with Kumudini, is having a positive impact on many women's lives.

In 2008, the United States Government will provide \$176 million in development assistance to Bangladesh. The United States Government has provided more than \$5 billion in development assistance to Bangladesh since 1971. The U.S. Government's assistance to Bangladesh includes support for free, fair and credible elections and more transparent and accountable governance; assistance for a better educated, healthier and more productive population; funding to increase economic opportunities through equitable economic growth; food assistance; and support for disaster mitigation.

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GR/2008

Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>